A VOICE FROM THE EAST.

An Eastern Farmer Gives Expression to a Few Pertinent and Pointed Remarks.

MARLBORO, PITT COUNTY, N. C., November 8, 1886.

EDITOR PROGRESSIVE FARMER:—During the late political canvass I had the pleasure of hearing a speech from Captain Octavius Coke, of Raleigh, in which he paid a high compliment to the county, commenting upon its pleasing topography and the neatness and productiveness of our farms. He spoke words of cheer and congratulation to us upon having such a goodly land to dwell in, and urged the importance of all good people thinking and acting upon the political issues of the day. He not only urged it as a right but as a Christian duty, as citizens of a great commonwealth. He spoke of the necessity of an industrial school where our youth could be trained in the different branches of *Architecture* and *Mechanism* and showed how each community might rear its own artizans and organize its own manufactories. He charged us to instruct our representatives to support in the next legislature a bill for the establishment of such a school, but, alas! through all his eloquence, and in all his advice, not one word fell from his lips as to the advantages of educating the head and the *hand* together for the management of the agricultural interests of our grand old State. He said nothing about refunding to the farmers the $125,000 that has, these many years, been misappropriated to the State University nor of returning to its proper channel that $7,500 interest per annum, that the farmer boy, too, may stand in the ranks, shoulder to shoulder with the mechanics, the machinists and architects in their rapid strides to prominence and power. This may have been an oversight with the honorable gentleman, but one peculiar to the politician, for I have never heard of its being mentioned by one on the stump. And just here I am reminded of the facility with which politicians will appropriate to themselves the glory of every public enterprise, as was exemplified in a speech by Governor Scales at the laying of the corner stone of the building on the State Experiment Farm near Raleigh last summer; when, before a large audience, he extolled the services of the State Board of Agriculture and declared that to Senator Vance and President Battle of the State University belonged the credit for the establishment of that Board, when it *ought* to be known to every intelligent man in the State that to another, whose sense of delicacy prevents him from laying claim to it, belongs the honor not only of urging that branch but of the establishment of the State Department of Agriculture, which, when it shall have been restored to its former useful line of labors for the State, will be a source of pride to every friend of State enterprise. Honor to whom honor is due is my motto, and when an humble citizen performs a labor of great and permanent good let him not be robbed of the honor in order that still more glory may be added to those already honored to the highest. Yet such is often done and many a lucky fellow allowed to attain prominence on the merits of some patient, toiling neighbor whose native modesty beclouds the work of his genius and patriotism.

Believing in the right of every citizen to inquire into the workings of public institutions and the acts of public servants, I hope I don't overstep that right or the bounds of propriety in suggesting to the voters of Eastern Carolina that it might be worth their while to inquire whether the good they derive from the State Department of Agriculture is commensurate with the amount of taxes they pay into the State Treasury? If not, let them know the cause and ask that it be removed.

There was a time when the voice of the Commissioner of Agriculture was heard and the influence of the Department was felt from one end of the State to the other. To-day I meet numbers of men who think the department of Agriculture dead and so far as any material good to us it is, for it is evident that its best energies as well as those of the State Immigration agent have been and are devoted to the development of the resources of the West almost to the exclusion of the East. And our people should know the cause of such discrimination. Strangers who chance to come among us are charmed with our section and wonder that a country so wealthy in climate, soil and timbered lands, with fertile farms all underlaid with marl and bordered by beds of muck and pete should be so overlooked by the State, and its advantages so little known abroad. And although our Immigration agent hesitates to recommend the east to strangers on account of its unhealthfulness, statistics show the mortality of this section compares favorably with that of any other portion of the State. It would also be interesting to the farmers of North Carolina to learn by what line of logical reasoning it can be proven that the Board of Agriculture should be composed of and conducted by professionals rather than by intelligent, practical farmers. When these things are made plain the people may take their seats and comfort themselves with the hope that their affairs are in the right hands. Until then it is our duty to inquire.

F. J.

HARNESS POLISH.

Four ounces of glue, a pint and a half of vinegar, two ounces gum-arabic, a half pint black ink, two drachms isinglass. Break the glue in pieces, put in a basin and pour over it about a pint of vinegar; let it stand until it becomes perfectly soft. Put the gum in another vessel, with the ink, until it is perfectly dissolved; melt the isinglass in as much water as will cover it, which may be easily done by placing the cup containing it near the fire about an hour before you want to use it. To mix them, pour the remaining vinegar with the softened glue into a sand pan upon a gentle fire, stirring it until it is perfectly dissolved, that it may not burn the bottom, being careful not to let it reach the boiling point; about 82° C. is the best heat. Next add the gum; let it arrive at about the same heat; add the isinglass. Take from the fire, and pour it off for use.

To use it, put as much as is required in a saucer, heat it sufficiently to make it fluid, and apply a thin coat with a piece of dry sponge. If the article is dried quickly, either in the sun or by the fire, it will have the better polish.

ABOUT HOGS.

The hog is not naturally a nasty animal. On the contrary he is very particular where he sleeps and what he eats. It is true, if he cannot get pure, cold water to bathe or roll in he will take the best he can get, even if it be the filthiest mud-hole. If you want sweet pork the hog must have pure water to drink and for wallow. When shut up to fatten he must have a clean plank floor, with a little clean bedding, changed often. Give clean corn, either raw or cooked or ground with pure, clean water. In the summer time he should have, with his grain, all the sweet grass he wants; in winter, second growth of clover hay. In summer and winter he should have as much of lime and salt mixed as he will eat. Never let him stop growing and slaughter him in his best flight of growth, and then you will have sweet pork. The wild hogs of southern Spain are clothed in fine curly black hair, and thence the proverb, "Never did a Spanish hog's bristle pierce a shoe." The fineness of hair and the absence of hair are attributed to the hot climate, for in those provinces of Spain where this black breed prevails, winter frosts and especially snow scarcely ever appear. On the contrary, in those parts of Russia where the winters are long and severe, and the sum short and cool, the swine produce extra long and stiff bristles in great abundance, like the okatska, which are exported in considerable quantities, and sell at a high price in foreign markets.

THE GROWTH OF CORN ROOTS.

There is good reason in the different habits of growth of corn much more shallow than that intended for potatoes. Roots of corn naturally run only a few inches below the surface, seeking warmth and only such moisture as is brought by frequent light rains. This indicates that manure for corn should be put on or near the surface, and that cultivation especially late in the season, should be shallow. Corn roots extend horizontally as far as the height of their stalk, and usually run over into adjoining rows before cultivation ceases.

Farm Notes.

COVERING FOR STRAWBERRIES.

If straw is used for protecting berry patches it is apt to fill the soil with weed seeds, besides being in the way in the Spring. Potato tops are free from weed seed, and by Spring much of their substance will be washed down into the soil, making a fertilizer rich in potash.

KEEPING BEETS THROUGH THE WINTER.

Beet roots are commonly too dry if kept in an ordinary cellar. They shrivel and lose equally in weight and value unless some dirt is mixed with them and thrown over them to exclude drying air. Again, the temperature must be kept only a little above freezing, or they will sprout and grow before Spring.

FATTENING FOWLS.

Too long feeding is a common mistake in fattening fowls for market. It takes off the profits when a shorter time will answer. If kept in a dark place and stuffed with all they can eat they will fatten in twelve days or two weeks, and if this is continued much longer they begin to grow poor again. Those to be kept over should never be subjected to this fattening or rather stuffing process.

KEEPING APPLES UNDER WATER.

While many agricultural exchanges are advocating dryness as a means of keeping apples it is a fact that they have been successfully preserved till late in the season under water, but at a temperature a little above freezing. Too much warmth is worse for apples than moisture. But to keep well in a damp place apples must be free from bruises the slightest of which will induce rot.

HOME CONSUMPTION OF CORN.

No kind of grain, and excepting hay, no other farm crop, is so generally consumed on the farms where grown as is corn. It is a ration for every kind of farm stock, and in many places is an important part of the food of the farmer and his family. We are increasing our exports of corn, as the people of Europe are learning its value, but to do this we must increase the quantity grown as its use here is never likely to be less than it is at present.

INSIDE FAT OF ANIMALS

Much of the manner of feeding animals may yet be known to the butcher by examining their insides after killing. Those which have most fat on their intestines have been fattened after a prolonged period of starvation at some earlier period of their lives. Fat in this position is nature's mode of providing sustenance against a time when food is scarce, which as it has occurred once in the animals experience is presumably likely to occur again.

CARROTS FOR HORSES.

The best of roots for the horse in Winter is the carrot. Enough should be provided to give two or three messes a week, though where they are plenty a still better plan is to feed some every day with oats or other grain, the ration of which may be proportionately diminished. To buy them they are generally as dear as oats, but may be grown for much less cost, a good crop of carrots yielding 200 to 600 or 800 bushels per acre, according as the small or large varieties are grown.

LEACHED ASHES.

Ashes which have been leached often contain much fertilizing value. In phosphates they are sometimes richer than the unleached, from the fact that phosphate in ashes is not readily soluable. But this inert phosphate is of little value. Occasionally, however, old leached ashes have been so long in places where they have absorbed nitrogen that they have formed nitrate of potash, which is one of the best fertilizers known. Such ashes, whether leached or not, are very valuable.

GATHERING APPLES.

Though apples should be picked rather than shaken from the tree some will undoubtedly fall while being gathered. The removal of all stones from under the tree or spreading a bed of straw will prevent many from being bruised. On some kinds bruises are more injurious than on others. In the Northern Spy the slightest contusion leads to rot. In the Russet apple a bruise providing the skin is not broken, will dry up and not affect its keeping very seriously. In large orchards it will pay to get a patented funnel shaped device of cloth placed under the tree so that the apples may be shaken on it and roll in a heap at the base of the trunk. It is a great saving of labor and does not injure the apples.

CORN VS. STALKS.

Other things being equal, short stalks in corn are better than long ones. Of two ears equally good select that which grew on the shortest stalk. Short stalks show that the corn is early, and this through most parts of our country is an important consideration. Part of the difficulty in growing corn of late years is due to the fact that we have not selected seed for its earliness.

ROAD FENCES.

Wherever roadway fences are required by law they should be good ones. In fact whether the law does or does not require that owners of stock should fence against animals on the highway, good fences should be kept up against stray cattle. Losses that will never be repaid will more than offset interest and repairs. especially on a much travelled road. In byways where there is little travel fences along the roadside may often be entirely dispensed with, or a line of fruit trees be set just at the edge of the road, and wires either barbed or plain fastened to the trees as a protection against passing stock.

GROWING TIMOTHY SEED.

Timothy seed has remarkably low for a number of years. It is seldom that more than four or five bushels of seed can be got per acre, and usually much less. It is very exhaustive crop at the grass has to remain uncut until ripened, when the vitality of the root is nearly destroyed But the timothy after threshing will make the best possible hay for horses, and it is this use of it that enables the seed to be sold at the present prices. Nearly all the timothy seed in the market comes from the West, and it is every year more difficult to get that free from weed seeds, especially plantain. For the sake of getting pure seed some Eastern farmers are obliged to grow and thresh their own.

HOW TO JUDGE CANNED GOODS.

A hint now about articles of food put up in tin cans—and about meat especially. Note when about to purchase the condition of the tin; if the can is bulged outwards, don't take it, even as a gift. We explain the process of canning, to give weight to our warning:

The meat is packed into tins while raw, then sealed, and cooked in an outer vessel of boiling water, with sometimes the addition of a chemical to raise the temperature. When cooked the can is pierced, and as soon as the air and steam have been expelled it is soldered. Experts know when it is ready for soldering; a moment too soon and the mischief is done, because if the air is left in it the tin bulges and the meat will not be good. On the contrary if the tin has sunk it is an infallible sign of wholesomeness; it shows a vacuum, which is natural as the meat shrinks when no air is left in the can. Always look out for any little globules of solder that may find their way inside the can; and take eare, especially in the case of salmon and lobster, to empty the contents as soon as opened into an earthenware vessel. This is necessary for everything except milk.—*Cassell's Magazine.*

HOW TO MAKE A RUG.

A good and quick way to make a mat to cover up some of the shabby places in your carpet, and will wonderfully brighten your room: Take all the bits of woolen cloth that are not large enough for anything else; cut them in rounds, or have them of uniform size; string them on strong wrapping cord, the different colors on different cords; have ready a square of old rag carpet, or any bit of carpet (though rag is best, being heavy and not given to turning up;) sew your work on this firmly. Geometrical designs and lines are the best patterns to follow, the floral are usually unsatisfactory and much harder to do. Work the designs first; fill in with gray or black and if you wish, you may ornament the edge with pinked out scallops, of any bright bits of cloth. Trim off all the rough edges nicely.

WHERE OUR FORESTS ARE GOING.

To make shoe-pegs enough for American use consumes annually one hundred thousand cords of timber, and to make our lucifer matches three hundred thousand cubic feet of our best heart lumber are required. Lasts and boot trees take five hundred thousand cords of birch, beech and maple, and the handles of tools five thousand more. The baking of our bricks consumes two million cords of wood, or what would cover in forests about fifty thousand acres of land. Telegraph poles already up represent eight hundred thousand trees, and their annual repair consumes three hundred thous. and more. The ties of our railways consume, annually. thirty year's growth of seventy-five thousand acres of land and to fence all our railways would require forty-five million dollars, with a yearly expenditure of fifteen millions for repairs. Our packing boxes cost in 1874. twelve million dollars. The timber used each year in the manufacture of wagons and agricultural implements costs more than one hundred million dollars.—*Fishkill Standard.*

HOW TO BREED.

The Oxford Club, of Ohio, an association of farmers, among whom are many advanced breeders, upon the subject of "Manner of Breeding," appointed Mr. Otstot to embody the gist of the subject. From his remarks we take the following:

"As the benefits from use of pure-bred males are immediate and remarkable, it is not necessary for the farmer who raises stock for breeding or for a dairy or for farm work, to go to the expense of stocking up with pure-bred animals. The first outlay is too great, and the pure-bred animal, as a rule, will not make any more pounds of beef or pork than the half blood or high grades.

"In fact, the grades are better rustlers, will stand hardship and recover from it quicker than pure bloods, which always had the best of care. But this being true, it is just as true that the grade or half-blood steer or pig is worth twice as much for feeding as the scrub. The scrub steer or mongrel razor backs and elm peelers are dear at any price. They never pay to feed grain to. When they cost nothing for keep or care, as in the mountains or plains, they may sell for more than they cost. But in this valley, where land is high and feed valuable, we cannot afford to raise any kind of ill-bred stock. The males used should be well and purely-bred.

"Start with good stock; then select carefully and give suitable care, and stock raising will be a paying part of our farm industry. A good grade steer with fair care will make an average growth of two pounds a day until two or three years old. The scrub, on the same keep, will not make more than half that much. Nor will he sell for as much per pound. The difference per pound is enough to stint out the scrub, to say nothing of the greater number of pounds the good grade steers will make. A well-bred steer is ready for market at thirty months; a scrub cannot be ready before fifty months. The price they will bring will be inversely as the time required to grow them. If you get $30 for a scrub at three years old, you will more readily get $50 for a good grade at same age. The same is true of swine. Well-bred hogs are ready for market at eight to ten months, and will weigh from 225 to 300 pounds. 'Elm-peelers' must have age, and do well if they weigh 300 pounds at two years.

"The farmer who breeds more than a dozen sows a year can buy a pure bred male, of extra feeding qualities, for $15 to $25, and double his money on that investment within twelve months. The farmer who has but few cows may not be able to keep a pure-bred male, but two or three farmers should unite and buy one. It will improve all the stock. If none but pure-bred males were used in the county two or three years, the value of the cattle in the county would be double what it is now.

"Our margins on grain are so light now that we must see to it that our cattle and pigs are better. Their value can be easily increased. Horses are harder to improve on, because it requires more capital to secure good males. It can be done by forming stock improvement associations. Then strictly good horses could be had for service."—*Farm, Field and Stockman.*